

ANTI-INDIA CAMPAIGN IN BANGLA DESH

*122. SHRI CHANDRAMOULI
JAGGARLAMUDI :†

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :

SHRI YOGENDRA
SHARMA :

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI :

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :

SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

SHRI K. C. PANDA :

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G.
KULKARNI :

SHRI SUNDAR MANI
PATEL :

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

SHRI OM PRAKASH TYAGI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that, of late, anti-India campaign has been developing in Bangla Desh; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Feeble attempts, by some stray elements in Bangladesh have been made to do anti-Indian propaganda. The Government of Bangladesh have strongly condemned such misguided and unjustified attempts. Relations between the Governments and peoples of India and Bangladesh are very close and cordial. There is no room for any misunderstanding being created by such misguided and mischievous elements.

SHRI CHANDRAMOULI JAGGARLAMUDI: May I know the reasons why the Bangla Desh people are showing their anti-Indian feelings?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chandramouli Jaggarlamudi.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I wish I could answer about such stray elements who resort to this thing, which is not in the interests either of the people of Bangladesh or of India. And having said that the Government and the people by and large of Bangladesh do not like this, I think we should close it here.

SHRI CHANDRAMOULI JAGGARLAMUDI: Is it a fact that cement which is being supplied by us to Bangladesh is being sold at Bangladesh market at Rs. 600 per tonne and that on account of that there is a feeling that India is bleeding Bangladesh people?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I cannot give the details about the sale price of cement in Bangladesh. In fact, if you ask me, I cannot give the sale price of cement even in our own country.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know from the hon. Minister, whatever be the stray people or the small, meagre number of people who are creating such a situation, whether they are in a way getting help from Pakistan?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I cannot say at the present moment. As you know, Pakistan is at a long distance from Bangla Desh. There is not even any formal recognition of Bangladesh by Pakistan. So, if there are some old elements who may still have some loyalty to Pakistan, about it I cannot say, but there is no proof or evidence with me to indicate that Pakistan is actively engaged in generating these anti-Indian feelings in Bangladesh.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know from the hon. Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No other question.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Only..

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: I would have combined them into one. I should have been told.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Mr. Yogendra Sharma.

श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतलायेंगे कि वे लोग जो कि भारत विरोधी प्रचार बंगला देश में कर रहे हैं उन के पोलिटिकल अडिटपिकेशन क्या है और क्या वे उन देशों से प्रेरणा पा रहे हैं जिन्होंने पिछले युद्ध में हमारे साथ शत्रुता का व्यवहार किया था ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have no information on these two points.

श्री सूरज प्रसाद : क्या यह बात सही है कि बंगला देश के अंदर क्रिश्चियन मिशनरी सी० आई० ए० के एजेन्ट्स, सी० आई० ए० और कुछ पोलिटिकल्स पार्टिज के लोग भारत के खिलाफ प्रचार कर रहे हैं ताकि भारत और बांगला देश के बीच में जो दोस्ताना संबंध है वह खराब हो जाय ? अगर इस तरह की बात है तो क्या भारत सरकार ने बंगला देश की सरकार का ध्यान इस तरह आकर्षित किया है कि इन तत्वों के खिलाफ उचित कार्यवाही की जाय ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, he has repeated the question in Hindi. This is the main question and I have given the reply.

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: There is no reply. I have asked a specific question.

सी० आई० ए०, क्रिश्चियन मिशनरी और कुछ पोलिटिकल्स पार्टिज के लोग क्या वहां इस तरह से प्रचार कर रहे हैं? क्या सरकार को इस बारे में कोई खबर है?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, I would appeal to the hon'ble Members not to question us about the various political parties or what other agencies are functioning in a foreign country. It is very difficult for me to confirm or con-

tradict this thing. For instance, if he himself had a second look at his question about C.I.A. or political agents, obviously there are some stray elements. I said if they have any connection with some political parties it is not for me to identify that thing. But the problem is not such which should cause any great concern. As you know, there is parliamentary democracy, open society which is taking shape and we are very happy in doing this. There will be some critics and we should take it in our stride rather than take this attitude that the Government of Bangla Desh should take action against anybody who says anything against India. That should not be our attitude.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: The hon'ble Minister has described anti-India campaign as "feeble". But the fact remains that when Mr. D. P. Dhar went there there was a big demonstration saying "D. P. Dhar, Go back.", and also anti-Indian matters have been published in Pakistani Press. May I ask the hon'ble Minister whether this latest controversy about the ship that has been supplied by India, namely, Viswajyoti, the controversy about the usability of the ship has been finally set at rest and whether the Bangla Desh Government authorities have been convinced by the Government regarding the usability of the ship?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Firstly, even if there is demonstration, we in India are accustomed to so many demonstrations and we still regard such opposition or criticism as "feeble". We are not bothered about demonstrations in our own country, and it is something about which we do not bother in our own country. We concede the right to others also to stage demonstrations. About the ship, it is a specific matter, and I would request the hon'ble Member to ask this question from either the supplier or other Ministries. You cannot ask me all the questions about

economic relations, some ship or similar other things. They do not arise out of this question.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: It is a question between Indian and Bangla Desh.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: You should table a separate question about the ship.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Regarding the supply of the ship which has been described as "Junk" by the Bangla Desh authorities, . .

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: This is a specific question which is not necessarily related to this one. You may give notice to the Minister concerned.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: It gives rise to misunderstanding. That is my submission.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: May I know what steps the Government proposes to take before the anti-India campaign turns into one of serious proportions?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I would take the step of requesting my friends not to give too much credence to these things. The surest way to give encouragement to the stray elements is to take too much notice of them. It is for the Government and the political parties of Bangla Desh to deal with this situation, and I am sure that they are dealing with this situation.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, he has not answered my question. I wanted to know what our Government proposes to do, what steps our Government proposes to take, not what the Bangla Desh Government proposes to do.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Not to take notice of this is the best policy. And what do you expect us to do in Bangla Desh except to appeal to the abiding friendship and the commonality of interests between the people of Bangla Desh and the people of India? There is wide understanding of this aspect.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

*123. [The question (Shri O. P. Tyagi) was absent. For answer vide col. 34-35 infra]

TRIAL OF PAKISTANI POWS IN BANGLA- DESH

*124. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA
SINGH:

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA:†
MISS SAROJ PURUSHOT-
TAM KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Government of Bangladesh for handing over Pakistani P.O.Ws for trial; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have not received any communication from the Government of Bangladesh in respect of handing over Pakistani POWs for trial in Bangladesh.

PROPOSAL TO SET UP AN ALLOY STEEL PLANT IN PURULIA DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

*125. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI KALYAN ROY:
SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI:

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that last year the Central Government approved of a proposal to set up an Alloy Steel Plant in Purulia District of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the progress so far made in regard to the implementation of that proposal; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shyamlal Gupta.